

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 are allowed.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mr. Bliot Malmud on /2/4/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 are now canceled.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The best prior art of record does not specifically teach the limitations of "a third step, conducted by the sound providing means, of determining a tone-

Art Unit: 2617

replacing sound based on the received third information for the call-receiving terminal, and providing the determined tone-replacing sound as a ringback tone to the second-in-time call-sending terminal-through the call-receiving exchanger;

a fourth step, conducted by the call-receiving exchanger, of requesting release of the first trunk connection to the sound providing means, if the call-receiving terminal accepts the call from the second-in-time call-sending terminal, and requesting a second trunk connection to the sound providing means for the connected first-in-time terminal while providing the sound providing means with fourth information on call-switched; and

a fifth step, conducted by the sound providing means, of determining a tone-replacing sound based on the received fourth information for the call-receiving terminal, and providing the determined tone-replacing sound as a call-waiting tone to the first-in-time terminal through the call-receiving exchanger which the second trunk connection is made to;

wherein the sound providing means determines the tone-replacing sound based on an identity associated with the call-sending terminal, which group the call-sending terminal belongs to among several groups classified by a user of the call-receiving terminal, and/or calling time".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

Art Unit: 2617

preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Therefore, Claims 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 are considered novel with respect to prior art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL FARAGALLA whose telephone number is (571)270-1107. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 am-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Eng can be reached on 571-272-7495. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2617

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/George Eng/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/Michael Faragalla/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

04/05/2010